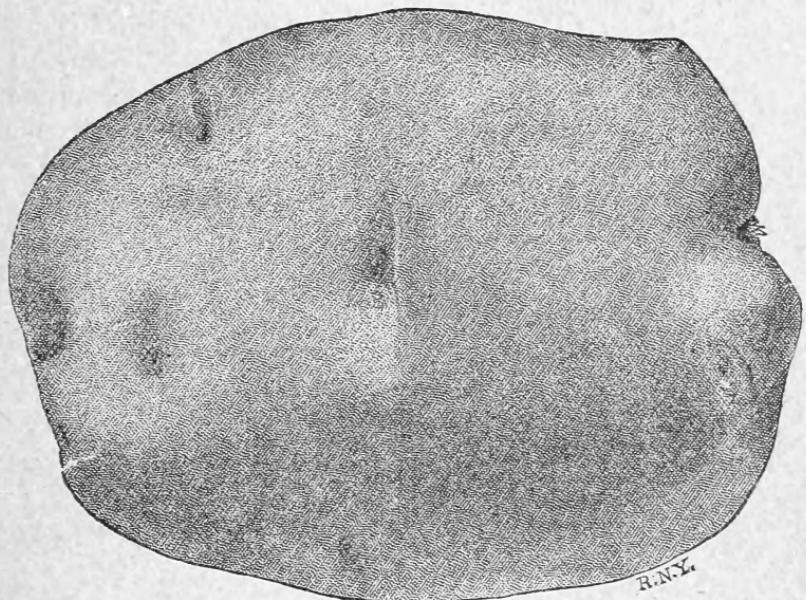


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## SELECT NOVELTIES IN VEGETABLE SEEDS.



**THE NEW BLUSH POTATO.** Was tried at the Rural Farm last season for the first, beside 14 other new kinds. It was the only variety that did not materially suffer from the drought and it yielded more than any two others put together. The tubers are of medium size and singularly uniform—never growing very large and yielding very few small ones. The portrait shows the characteristic shape. The vines bear small leaves and the stems are notable for their branching habit and slenderness. They seldom bloom profusely and in field culture occupy less space than most other kinds. The potato is of the *very first quality*. The skin is white except at the seed end where it assumes a rosy color from which the name of BLUSH was suggested to the originator. We have introduced the BEAUTY OF HEBRON for *early*; the WHITE ELEPHANT for *late*, and now offer the "**Blush**" for an *intermediate* to complete the set. This will, we believe, be found to possess distinct qualities that will in some respects render it more valuable than either of its associates.

Per Barrel of 165 lbs.....	\$25 00	Per Peck' of 15 lbs.....	\$4 00
" Bushel of 60 "	12 00	" Half Peck 7½" .....	3 00
" Half Bus. 30 "	7 00	" Pound.....	75

## Directions for the Cultivation of Vegetables.

The first thing necessary to secure good crops of vegetables is to select a soil either naturally rich, or one which can be readily made so by the addition of good stable manure. It is useless to expect crops of good quality from a poor, thin soil. Choose, if possible, one of dark loam with a sandy sub-soil, through which water will pass readily. Such, with good cultivation, will produce an abundance of early and late vegetables of excellent quality. If a soil of this character cannot be had, select the best that is obtainable, and if necessary put down drains to take off the surplus water. After the garden is chosen, thoroughly prepare it for planting by giving a heavy dressing of well-rotted stable manure. Plow and sub-soil to the depth of twelve inches at least, and more if it can be done. In the Directions given in the body of the Catalogue the *least* space required by the different kinds is given. This is done on account of the limited size of many gardens, which necessitates economy of space. When possible, give more room, and the yield will be found superior in quantity and quality.

Never sow *any* garden crop broadcast if it is desirable to save time, expense and trouble. When sown in drills or rows, weeds can be more easily destroyed, and the ground kept open and loose. Keep the hoe in constant use, or, what is still better, when the weeds are just showing above the surface, a sharp-toothed steel rake. By their faithful use there is no need of a single weed ever going to seed, and in a few years the difference will be apparent in the diminished crop of weeds.

The same kind of crop should not occupy the same ground year after year. After manuring well such crops as grow above ground (Cabbage, Peas, &c., also Potatoes, and the like), follow next year with root crops (Carrots, Parsnips, &c.), which will not require so much manure.

We need scarcely suggest the advantage to be derived from an early starting of vegetables in hot-beds. The trouble is very slight, as compared with the gain in time, and the satisfactory results thus secured. Of course, this is imperatively necessary where vegetables are raised for market.

All these suggestions are of practical importance, and, if acted upon, will secure early and abundant crops.

To PREPARE A COLD-FRAME.—The cold-frame should be made the same as for a hot-bed, the difference being, that in the former there is no bottom heat applied. After the frame is made, it is filled with good, rich soil; that taken from the old hot beds, mixed with the fine manure from them, is the best. This is prepared in the Fall, and young Cabbage, Cauliflows and Lettuce plants set out, so that they will get established before very cold weather. During cold nights and stormy days, the beds should be closely covered with the sashes, and these further protected by straw mats or shutters. During mild days admit air freely, the object being to keep the plants in a dormant state, without actual freezing, so that when Spring comes the plants are in a forward state for setting out for early crops.

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## Directions for Making a Hot-bed.

About the middle of February and up to the latter part of March, according to the latitude, provide a quantity of fresh horse manure from the stable; add to this, if they can be had, one-half its bulk of leaves; mix them thoroughly, tramping down the mass in successive layers, and form into a large pile, so that fermentation will proceed even in severe cold weather. In two or three days fermentation will be apparent by the escape of steam from the heap. Now turn again, and allow it to remain two or three days longer, or until the second fermentation commences. Prepare an excavation two and one-half feet deep, and of a size suited to the number of plants required. It should be made in some dry, sheltered spot, facing the South or East, if possible. Hot-bed sashes are usually 6x3 feet, and one sash will generally give early plants enough for a large family. The frame for the sash should be eighteen inches high at the back, and twelve inches in front, which will give the proper slope to catch the most sunlight. Cross-pieces should be placed for the sashes to slide on, to facilitate opening and shutting the frames. When everything is ready, the manure is placed in the pit and trodden down firmly in layers to the required depth, two and one-half feet. Then put on the sashes, and keep close, until the heat rises. It will be too hot to sow the seeds now, but in two or three days it will subside to 90 degrees, when the soil may be put on to the depth of six to eight inches. The soil should be of well-rotted sods, mixed with fine, old manure in equal parts, and in this the seeds may be sown thinly in drills two or three inches apart, and afterwards either thinned out or else transplanted to another frame. Air must be given every mild day by raising the sashes at the back. Water with tepid water whenever necessary, and during cold nights and snow-storms keep covered with straw mats or board shutters. Tomatoes, Peppers, and Egg Plants should be sown in a separate frame from the Cabbage, Cauliflower, and Lettuce, as they require more heat than the latter. The same directions apply to hot-beds made on the surface of the ground, except that the manure should be at least a foot wider on all sides than the frame.